

A New Species of *Idiophyes* from New Britain (Coleoptera: Endomychidae)

by

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With 3 figures

ABSTRACT

Idiophyes novabritanniae sp. n. described from New Britain: Karavat.

Among a miscellaneous lot of Endomychidae sent to me for study by Dr. Ivan Löbl of the Geneva Museum is a pair of small specimens best assigned, in light of present knowledge, to the genus *Idiophyes*. SASAJI (1978: 11) has recently proposed a new subfamily, Mychotheninae, to include this and several other genera.

Having published rather extensively on Melanesian endomychids in the past few years, and not foreseeing any need for further synoptic studies, I offer this single description.

Idiophyes novabritanniae n. sp. (Figs. 1-3)

Holotype: male, New Britain, Karavat, 18.VII.1979, arbre pourri, J. D. Bourne (Geneva Museum).

Allotype: female, same data as holotype (Geneva Museum).

Short-oval, subglobose. Dark chestnut brown, broad marginal area of elytra reddish brown. Venter dark brown, legs somewhat paler. Head broad, eyes small, subhemispheric. Antenna 10-jointed, joint 1 long, stout, curved; 2 narrower than 1 and short-cylindric; 3 much narrower than 2, longer than wide; 4-7 short, quadrate or subglobose; 8-10 forming a broad club, which is almost as long as stalk.

Pronotum more than $2 \times$ as broad as long, marginal bead broad in front, narrowing basad, sides fringed with long hairs, strongly rounded to the short and obtuse front angles, hind angles rounded-rectangular; disc strongly convex, punctures fine and distant; side areas declivent, finely setose; basal transverse sulcus close to hind margin, which is gently sinuate but unlobed; lateral sulci widely triangular at base, continued as fine lines almost to front margin. Scutellum transversely triangular. Elytra highly

convex, their combined width greater than their length, each with 7 rows of coarse punctures, leaving a wide tumid submarginal area unpunctured; this area, as noted above, is of paler color than the disc; reflexed margin narrow. Pubescence (much abraded) tawny.

In the male the caudal slope of elytron has a transverse impression, which offers different appearances with varying angles of illumination. Some features are somewhat diagrammatically illustrated in the figures.

Length (allotype) 1.4 mm, width 1 mm. The head and pronotum of holotype are considerably extended. Length 1.75 mm, width 1.25 mm.

In its subrotund form most similar to *I. rotundus* Strohecker from Reunion I. It differs from that species, as well as from *I. niponensis* (Gorham) and *I. boninensis* Sasaji in the wider marginal bead of pronotum. SASAJI (1978: 18) figured and redescribed *I. niponensis* from females. A male determined by Gorham is at hand (ex Janson). Each elytron has just before apex a shallow triangular impression and within this area the sutural margins elevated together into a small tubercle.

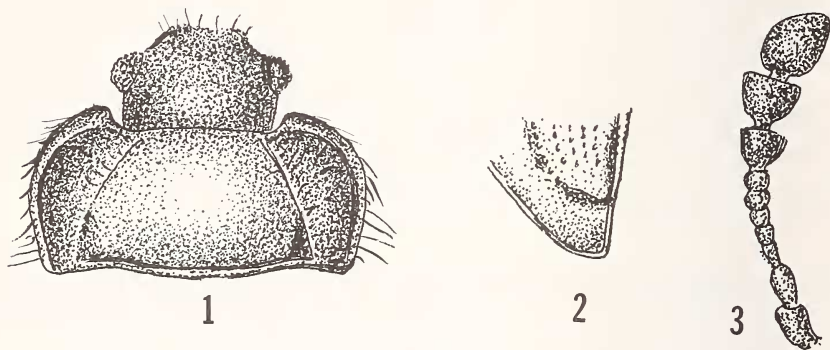


FIG. 1-3.

Idiophyes novabritanniae sp. n.:

1: head and pronotum; 2: apex of elytron; 3: antenna.

REFERENCES

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